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ZOOLOGY.

NOTES ON SOME OREGON BIRDS. — *Ampelis garrulus* (Linnæus). This bird was first noticed here as early as November, but at no time was it found in large flocks. The greatest number I saw at any one time did not exceed twenty. They feed on the wild rose berry almost if not exclusively during the winter, filling their crops to their utmost capacity and growing very fat. At times they were very shy, at others just the reverse. I noticed them only along the creeks, where they were feeding or resting. I believe they roost among and on the wild rose bushes, as I have found them there at twilight and early morning. I have not noticed them making any unusual noise, though in large flocks they might make plenty of it, and very likely would. According to Degland, the female has no white or yellow on the inner webs of the secondaries. I find that each has the white or yellow extending around the point and on the inner web of the secondaries.

Pipilo megalonyx (Baird). This bird appeared here in early spring; was quite shy. Its resort is along the creek, rarely leaving it, though at times it is seen on the neighboring foot-hills. I have seen it fly several hundred yards without lighting. It feeds on the ground, scratches a great deal, and is restless. At times they fly rather high. They leave here in April, returning on their way south in September, about the 15th.

Passerella Townsendii var. *schistacea*. This bird also is very shy, seeks the dense thicket and undergrowth, and scratches on the ground among the dead leaves, doubtless feeding on seeds and insects. I believe it breeds here, but am not positive. Goes south in September.

Junco Oregonus Townsend. Winters here; migrates late in the spring, but, I think, only to the high mountains. Its habits are much the same as other snow birds.

Melospiza melodia var. Found here early in the spring. It is a great songster and sings very sweetly. I do not know the variety.

Melanerpes torquatus (Wilson). Breeds here and is numerous. I know very little about them.

Pelecanus trachyrhynchus (Latham). Breeds here, makes its nest on a lonely island, in the sand or loose earth, lines it with a very little grass or roots. Its eggs are white and rough, as a rule two only in a nest, though some are found with three eggs. They nest in large groups, the nests being side by side and covering acres. — GEORGE R. BACON, U. S. A., Camp Harney, Oregon.

HABITS OF THE WHISTLER. — March 7, 1874, Sidney B. Ceby, of Rowley, shot in Castle Neck River, Ipswich, Mass., a female whistler or golden eye (*Bucephala Americana*) whose stomach contained nothing but Indian corn, *Zea mays*, of the variety grown in the Northern States. The kernels were whole, as if recently swallowed.

Castle Neck River is a purely tidal estuary, the water is salt, and the place where this bird was shot was only half a mile from the open sea. At this time of the year no corn could be obtained in the fields, as the farmers all house their corn in this locality, in the fall, and it is a mystery where the bird could have obtained it, as it is the wildest of the ducks that visit this part of the coast.

I have never found in the stomachs of this species anything but fish, shell fish, and marine plants and insects, except in this instance, which I think is the only one on record. The bird was given to me by Mr. Ceby, and upon dissecting it I found the corn as above stated. If any one can give a like instance among the *sea ducks* I should like to hear of it through the columns of the Naturalist. — J. FRANCIS LEBARON.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

CORDATE ORNAMENT. — A stone object, plowed up in Chester County, Pennsylvania, some twenty years ago, has just been brought to my attention. It is "heart-shaped," made of a coarse, micaceous sandstone, and measures two and a quarter inches from the notch to the apex, two and a half inches across the broadest portion of the lobes, and averages three fourths of an inch in thickness, one lobe being somewhat larger than the other. The edges have evidently been worked and rounded by aboriginal tools, and the notch may have been partially cut at the same time, as the upper portions of the lobes would indicate. This has, however, been deepened artificially by the over-zealous discoverer, with a metal instrument, as may be seen in the sharply cut outlines, which possess a much more recent appearance than the other portions, the grains of sand, in many cases, having been severed and smoothed. The object was, possibly, intended for a rude ornament; or it may have been fashioned for purposes of sepulture. The former supposition seems improbable, as the material is so coarse and crumbles easily, while there is no orifice or projection by which it might have been suspended. The point is somewhat truncated, which has probably been effected by pounding, as it has a ragged, rough appearance.

The two-lobed form is but a conventional device of civilized man to represent the human heart, and it is not at all probable that the North American Indian employed such a figure before he came into contact with the Europeans, especially as he does not use it in his paintings and etchings at the present time, but copies directly from nature. To be sure, the symbol was used in the hieroglyphics or picture-writings of ancient man in the eastern hemisphere, but we have no proof that it occurred in the rude rock-etchings of nomadic tribes in the United States. This form of ornament is so scarce that it can hardly represent a type. I have seen but this one and have heard of but two others, one of which is figured by Dr. Rau in his *Archæological Collections of the United States National Museum*. The latter was said to have been